



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

April 19, 2011

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conyers:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express AMA's support for H.R. 1409, the "Quality Health Care Coalition Act of 2011," which would allow health care professionals to jointly negotiate with health plans regarding terms that affect patient care, thus restoring physicians' ability to advocate for quality care for their patients and strengthening the patient-physician relationship.

Health care antitrust issues remain one of the top priorities for the AMA. We are aggressively working on a multi-faceted approach to improve the antitrust environment for physicians. The AMA is extremely concerned with increasing health plan consolidation, as well as the regulatory barriers that restrict physicians' ability to work together to create efficiencies and advocate on behalf of their patients. As a result of the current environment, physicians are forced to accept unfair and inequitable contracts that touch on every aspect of the patient-physician relationship. H.R. 1409 would provide individual health care professionals the ability to negotiate effectively with health plans.

Thank you for highlighting the importance of improving the antitrust environment for physicians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Maves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA